What is claimed is:

1. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member for housing and protecting an optical fiber coupler main body in a longitudinal groove provided in the longitudinal direction of a shaft member, the longitudinal groove having an approximately U-shaped cross-section and the shaft member having a flat surface along the longitudinal direction thereof.

2. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 1, wherein a shape in cross-section of the shaft member is a polygonal shape which inscribes a circle.

3. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 1, wherein corners of both ends of the longitudinal groove are beveled.

4. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 2, wherein corners of both ends of the longitudinal groove are beveled.

5. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 1, wherein the shaft member comprises a super invar material or an invar material, and a surface of the shaft member is subjected to chrome plating, tin plating, or nickel plating at a predetermined thickness.

6. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 2, wherein the shaft member comprises a super invar material or an invar material, and a surface of the shaft member is subjected to chrome plating, tin plating, or nickel plating at a predetermined thickness.

7. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according claim 3, wherein the shaft member comprises a super invar material or an invar material, and a surface of the shaft member is subjected to chrome plating, tin plating, or nickel plating at a predetermined thickness.

8. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 4, wherein the shaft member comprises a super invar material or an invar material, and a surface of the shaft member is subjected to chrome plating, tin plating, or nickel plating at a predetermined thickness.

9. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 1, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm.

10. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 2, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm.

11. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 3, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm.

12. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 4, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm.

13. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 5, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm.

14. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 6, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm.

15. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 7, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm.

16. An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 8, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm.

17. An optical fiber coupler comprising an optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to one of claims 1 to 16.